

Old Buildings Find New Life

Craig Flentie, Lewistown FO

Outside, it was a chilly February evening in Lewistown, but inside the Yogo Inn (a local motel/restaurant/meeting facility/watering hole), coffee, cake and congratulations warmed community and regional educational leaders and the BLM as they gathered to salute foresight, hard work and cooperation.

The 60 or so people were celebrating the conversion of the vacant Lewistown BLM buildings on Airport Road to the new Central Montana Education Center. However, few were probably aware of the work required to make this concept a reality.

A little over a year ago, the Lewistown Field Office moved from the old Airport Road buildings to a new facility on the east side of Lewistown. Since we owned the vacant buildings outright, we began discussing possible avenues for disposing of them with the public.

At about the same time, Diane Oldenburg, a Lewistown native and the Director of Educational Opportunities for Central Montana, a local task force and the University of Montana-Northern in Havre were searching for classrooms and adequate administrative areas for the expanding continuing education programs in Lewistown. It didn't take them long to recognize that the vacant BLM buildings had potential worth investigating.

Oldenburg, the local task force and their peers at MSU-Northern worked tirelessly to find answers to a long list of questions dealing with building repair, retrofitting, architects, contractors, feasibility, schedules and, of course, financing.

The educational partners had previously conducted a fund drive in central Montana to gather pledges to help pay for an education center. In typical fashion, Lewistown and central Montana responded to the fund raising effort

with over \$633,000 in pledges, a remarkable tally considering this is an agricultural area in the midst of a long term drought! The partners were also successful in garnering Housing and Urban Development funds to apply to such a facility.

With this financial capability and another nine months of persistent effort and paper work, the conveyance from the BLM to MSU-Northern was successfully completed.

Because the BLM facilities were donated, the money raised for the facility will be used for extensive remodeling.

Congratulations are definitely in order. The community feels this is a wonderful use for the former BLM property, and we are pleased that this facility will continue contributing to Lewistown and the greater central Montana area.



Lewistown Field Manager June Bailey (left) presents a symbolic key to the vacant BLM facilities in Lewistown to Alex Capdeville, Montana State University-Northern Chancellor, and Diane Oldenburg, Director of Educational Opportunities for Central Montana in Lewistown. The previous BLM facility will now serve as an extended campus/classroom/administrative facility for MSU-Northern and the Central Montana Education Center.

From Our State Director

The signs of spring are beginning to show. The days are longer, green-up has started in parts of the state and baseball season is underway.

(And for those of you who follow the sport, I'll make a bold prediction right here: The Yankees will take it all this year. They are, after all, the finest team money can buy.)

Field season is at hand. Some of you, no doubt, are feeling the draw of being outdoors and getting your boots dirty. Heading to the field those first few days of spring is almost a ritual in BLM, something we look forward to, something we enjoy. It's on the ground that we again remember why we choose a career in natural resource management. That first deep gulp of warm spring air in a favorite outdoor setting is one of the best parts of working for BLM.

Another sign of spring is the reminder to work safely. Ahead of us are thousands of hours of driving, of working outside. We all tend to put in extra hours when the weather is fair and the days stretch out longer. Just around the corner is fire season and all of the variables and potential risks it brings. As much as we care for natural resources, and no matter the passion we feel for our jobs, there is nothing worth taking an unneeded risk. In recent years, it's become axiomatic in the fire community that a good day is when everyone comes home safely at night. Let's all commit

to being more alert and working hard to ensure that we have nothing but good days in Montana and the Dakotas.

We have a busy few months coming up beyond our normal field routines. In late April, Kathleen Clarke is scheduled to visit Miles City, our pilot energy office. We have a General Management Evaluation scheduled for early June, something we hope that employees will participate in, with the results helping us to improve our organization. In July, Miles City will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Prairie County State Cooperative Grazing, the oldest and largest grazing district in Montana. We have the dedication of two interpretive centers at our national monuments, one at Fort Benton and one at Pompeys Pillar. These are huge events, with an enormous amount of planning and preparation required. BLM will be in the public eye for much of the next few months.

It looks more and more as though we'll enter this extraordinarily busy time without a new state director. The vacancy announcement has closed and a list of potential candidates is being composed. But with the resignation of Secretary Norton at the end of March, some rules kick in about filling Senior Executive Service positions, which most likely will delay the appointment of a new Montana/Dakotas state director. In the meantime, we'll chug along.

Serving as the acting state director has been a career highlight for me. I'd like to acknowledge the help I've



received from Rick Hotaling and Theresa Hanley, both of whom served well as the acting associate state director.

Theresa's appointment ends in late April, so we'll fill behind her, most likely with someone from our own state organization. There are others who have filled in admirably during this time of transition. We owe them our gratitude as well.

There is much to look forward to over the next few months. The start of a safe field season. Several major community and statewide events. The announcement of a new state director, and subsequently, a new associate state director being brought aboard.

And of course, a Yankee victory in the 2006 World Series.

I'm looking forward to a good rest-of-the year.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Howard A. Lemm'.

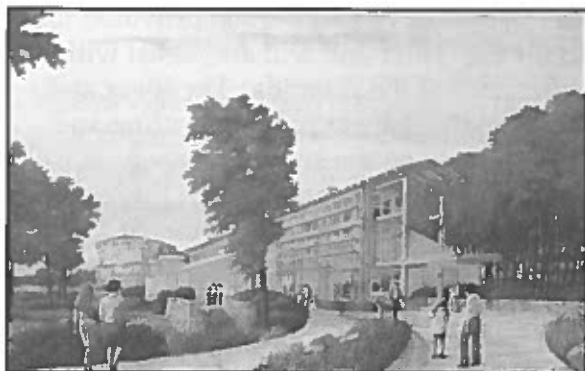
Howard A. Lemm
Acting State Director

Two Interpretive Centers to Open this Year

Mary Apple, Montana State Office

History buffs, travelers, educators, students, families, locals. . . well, the list could go on and on, but whatever category you do or don't fit into, you need to add a couple of places to your "must see" list.

This year, the Montana/Dakotas BLM is very pleased to invite you to visit its two new interpretive centers for Pompeys Pillar National Monument and the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. And, not entirely by coincidence, these two centers have connections to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, which is in its final year.



Artist's rendering of the Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretive Center.

Pompeys Pillar National Monument

The Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center will open Memorial Day weekend. Exhibits in the 5,700-square foot center relate the journey of Captain William Clark and his detachment, including Sacajawea and her son Pomp, down the Yellowstone River Valley in 1806. On July 25, 1806, Clark carved his signature into a 121-foot sandstone bluff 28 miles northeast of present-day Billings, Montana. He called the bluff Pompey's Tower; it is the only known physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition still visible along the trail. The center doesn't focus only on Clark's



Artist's rendering of the inside of the Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretive Center.

story; it tells the story of the Yellowstone Valley from pre-history through the coming of the steamboats and railroad and its early settlement by Euro-Americans.

The BLM purchased Pompeys Pillar in 1991 for its historic significance and its interpretive and recreational potential. In 1992, the BLM constructed limited facilities for the protection of resources and the comfort and safety of visitors. Facilities included a small log contact station and



Work progresses on the new Pompeys Pillar National Monument Interpretive Center. Photo by Ann Boucher

a stairway to Clark's signature and the top of the Pillar. President Clinton designated the site as a national monument in 2001.

The Pompeys Pillar Historical Association has worked closely with BLM in the acquisition, operation and development of this site. It is also raising funds to match a congressional appropriation for the construction of the center, and will help staff the center and bookstore/gift shop.

Additional improvements, consisting of a paved one-half mile entrance road and parking lot, entrance station which can either be staffed or collect fees from an automated teller; over one-quarter mile of walkways, and an amphitheater will be completed this summer. The additional

improvements have been funded by BLM, the Department of Transportation, Yellowstone County, the National Park Service, and Engineering Inc./Land Design.

This summer, Pompeys Pillar National Monument will be the site of "Clark on the Yellowstone," one of 15 national Lewis & Clark Bicentennial signature events nationwide. The signature event will take place July 22–25, 2006. The interpretive center will have its official dedication during the signature event on July 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

From the banks of the Yellowstone River, let's go to the banks of the Upper Missouri River, where our other interpretive center is under construction in Fort Benton. Because other museums in the area focus on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive center will help visitors to the area appreciate and understand the cultural and natural history of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, the wild and scenic river, and their surroundings. We plan to open the center in late summer 2006. A dedication of the interpretive center is scheduled for June 25, 2006, at 2 p.m.

The need for improved visitor facilities surfaced in the late 1980s, well before the monument's designation in 1991. The current 750-square foot visitor contact station in Fort Benton's downtown area is in a small converted house that is more than 100 years old.

The Bureau of Land Management, City of Fort Benton, and The River and Plains Society are partners in the interpretive center. The BLM will pay for construction, permanent fulltime staffing, and part of the operation and maintenance of the



Workers install roof panels on the new interpretive center in Fort Benton. Photo by Connie Jacobs.

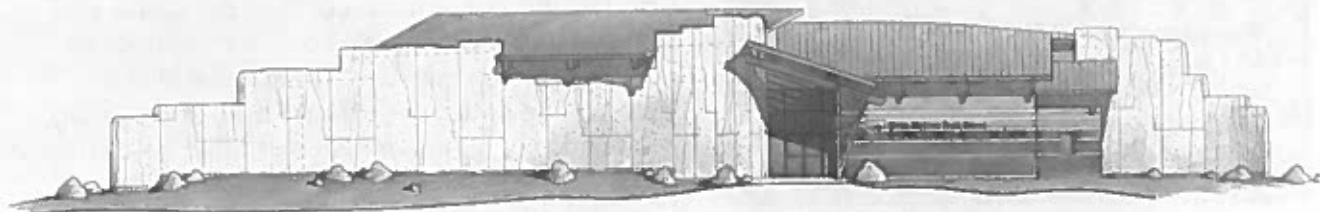
center. The City of Fort Benton provided the land for the center and will also assist with maintenance of the grounds. The River and Plains Society plans to provide staffing and volunteers during the summer season, as well as assist with gift store operations at the center. The River and Plains Society is a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving and providing education about the history of Chouteau County and the surrounding areas.

The exterior of the 6,000-square foot center mimics the famed White Cliffs portion of the Missouri River. The lobby area and information desk will serve to register boaters and provide information for the people floating the river or visiting the monument. The center will also have a classroom that can double as a meeting room and for rotating interpretive exhibits. The BLM's river management staff will also be located in the center.

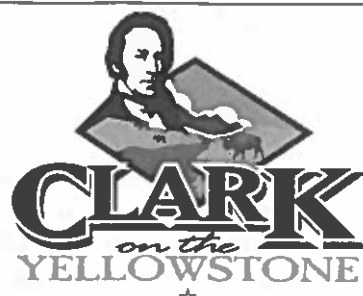
Soon to be Open for Business

Both centers will charge entrance fees to help offset the cost of maintenance and operation, and both will be open, at least for now, from about May to September and by appointment during the other months.

We're excited to open these two beautiful and fascinating centers and hope you'll visit them soon.



Artist's rendering of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretive Center.



NATIONAL SIGNATURE EVENT

July 22 - 25, 2006

Don't Miss It!

Pompeys Pillar has been a significant landmark and gathering place for centuries, and this summer will mark one of the largest gatherings yet. Don't miss your opportunity to join in during the *Clark on the Yellowstone* Signature Event July 22-25.

Clark on the Yellowstone is the last in a four-year series of national events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Organizers are planning a host of activities that pay tribute to the historic, cultural and natural legacies associated with Captain William Clark's return journey in 1806. They are also working to honor the unique and colorful heritage of Native Americans.

Event highlights include Native American encampments, Clark signature reenactment, living history mall, bison exhibit, author's tent, and numerous programs, exhibits and vendors.

While most of the event will take place at the BLM-managed Pompeys Pillar National Monument, additional attractions including a street dance and entertainment are planned within the Billings community. On July 21, "A Taste of the Trail" will feature the Black Powder Shotgun Chili Cookoff, wine and beer tasting, and an ice cream social.

The Yellowstone County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission is planning the details in partnership with the BLM and other federal agencies. Volunteers will play a critical role in the event's success, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. To learn how to become a volunteer, or for more information about the event, go to www.clarkontheyellowstone.org.

DILLON COMPLETES RMP

Marilyn Krause, Western Zone

After a four-year collaborative planning effort, the BLM's Dillon Field Office completed the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Dillon Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Dillon was one of the last offices in Montana to develop an RMP. The lands were previously covered under a management framework plan dating from 1979. Renee Johnson served as project leader for the planning effort that included the counties as cooperating agencies and unprecedented public involvement opportunities.

The approved RMP guides future management of more than 900,000 acres of public land and 1.3 million acres of federal mineral estate administered by BLM in Beaverhead and Madison counties in southwestern Montana.

Like other BLM planning efforts, the RMP addresses a wide variety of topics, including upland and riparian/wetland management; forest health and forest products; fish and wildlife habitat; livestock grazing; special status species; recreation; travel management; cultural and paleontological resources; areas of critical environmental concern; and other public land resources and uses.

The route designations included as part of the travel management decisions in the ROD/RMP became effective upon completion of the ROD, but are implementation-level decisions that may be appealed within 30 days of publication of the Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision and Approved RMP in the *Federal Register*.

Copies of the document were sent to interested parties previously requesting one and to agency representatives. Printed copies of the ROD/RMP can be viewed at southwestern Montana public libraries in Dillon, Twin Bridges, Ennis, Whitehall, and Bozeman and at BLM offices across the state. The ROD/RMP is also posted on the BLM's website at www.mt.blm.gov/dfo/rmp.

BLM a Key Player in the Blackfoot Challenge

Marilyn Krause, Western Zone

The Missoula Field Office added nearly 5,500 acres to the public land base with a land acquisition in the Tupper Lake – Marcum Mountain area about 10 miles west of Lincoln, Montana. Funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the purchase is a piece of the puzzle started when The Nature Conservancy worked cooperatively with the Blackfoot Challenge group to purchase land previously held by Plum Creek Timber.

The Blackfoot Challenge is a consortium of interests including local ranchers, federal, state and local agencies, conservation organizations and private corporations and foundations. Several years ago, they banded together and created the Blackfoot Challenge to manage

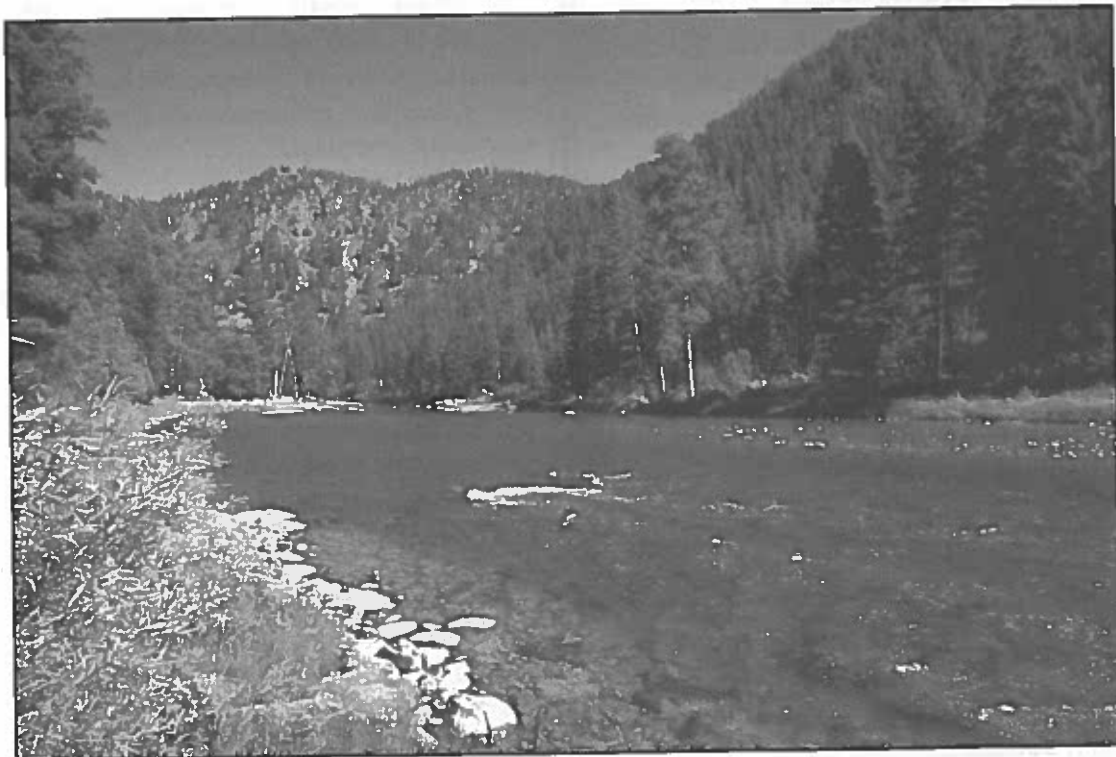
the Blackfoot River and adjacent land. Their primary goal is to maintain the rural lifestyle and protect the natural resource values in the Blackfoot Valley.

Plum Creek Timber owned roughly 88,000 acres from the headwaters of the Blackfoot to the Clearwater River drainage. The Blackfoot Challenge formed a partnership with The Nature Conservancy and titled their land acquisition partnership the Blackfoot Community Project.

To date, the Conservancy has purchased nearly 54,000 acres and hold options to purchase the remaining acreage over the next few years. All lands are being sold according to the disposition plan approved by individual communities and the Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors.

Besides BLM, the Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation have also acquired property. A private entity purchased 160 acres adjacent to Lincoln to be set aside for residential development.

An interesting footnote is that the Blackfoot Challenge is slated to purchase 5,600 acres as a "Community Conservation Area" to serve as a model for land management practices. The area south of Ovando Mountain is highly valued by neighboring residents for public access, forest products and wildlife. Stay tuned to see how this dynamic partnership tackles the challenge of managing land for public use.



Nearly 5,500 acres were added to the public land base in the Missoula Field Office last year through the Blackfoot Challenge partnership and funded with the Land and Water Conservation Fund. BLM photo.

The Range of Change in Malta

Don Smurthwaite, Montana State Office

MALTA – During the last 30 years or so, a subtle change has taken place on the public rangelands of the Montana HiLine.

It's a change that would be hard to detect for a casual observer, unless you've been in the country for a long time, as have John Fahlgren, the assistant field manager in Glasgow, and Rich Adams, who holds the same position in Malta. Together, they have almost 50 years of natural resource management experience in northern Montana.

The change is a healthier rangeland than existed in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. It has come about by applying new rangeland standards and rangeland practices designed to improve conditions, the cooperation of grazing permit holders, obtaining the data needed to better understand rangeland conditions through improved monitoring and plenty of hard work.

"Range conditions have shown a steady improvement on the HiLine," says Mark Albers, Malta Field Office manager. "It's been a gradual change, but if you've been here awhile, you can see how it has evolved."

Fahlgren, a native of the HiLine town of Hinsdale, agrees. "Generally, conditions weren't bad years ago, but there were some obvious problems," he says.

The simplest way to describe what took place is that each decade seemed to have its own focus on how public rangelands should be managed.

In the 1960s, adjudication of the public rangeland started, creating allotments and paving the way for BLM to make plans and apply on-the-ground management. It wasn't always an easy task to deal with ranchers who were used to having their way about public land management.

"That was one of the major steps," Adams says of the early BLM range employees. "Give credit where credit is due – those guys fought the first battles. They attempted to see what the resources were and began to allocate use."

Fahlgren says that the Glasgow Field Office has implemented AMPs on 75 allotments totaling 850,000 acres, including 200,000 acres of state and private land.

"We've also completed seven watershed

assessments involving about one million acres and 620 miles of streams and a wide variety of wildlife habitats."

In the 1970s, after allotments had been set up and management plans completed for some of them, the focus was to resolve the larger, obvious problems and improve the health of the uplands.

"We began to tackle the allotments that had the bigger problems," Adams said. "What we did helped to minimize the impacts of grazing. We became more sophisticated in our planning regarding grazing."

In the 1980s, with the uplands in better condition, riparian areas became the focus.

"We started to recognize the value of the prairie-riparian system," said Adams.

Adds Fahlgren, "All of the drainage bottoms were grazed out, but the uplands looked good," he says. "The drainages are where the big changes occurred next."

Through deferred grazing systems, restoration, fencing and other management techniques, the overall health of the HiLine rangeland continued its steady improvement.

The 1990s proved to be a time of further change and improvement for the land. The Montana/Dakotas Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management were approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1997 and incorporated into existing Resource Management Plans. Developed by BLM, Resource Advisory Councils, and other members of the public, they defined acceptable conditions that would help assure healthy, sustainable and properly functioning public rangelands.

The standards built upon the good work that was started years before in the HiLine, with an emphasis on watershed assessments.

"In 1978 and 1979, we mapped about two million acres in the Prairie Pothole EIS area," says Fahlgren, of the area that essentially took in the public land in the Malta, Havre and Glasgow offices north of the Missouri Breaks. "In the past ten years, those offices have been involved in watershed assessments and we've seen, as we go back into those areas, that there has been significant improvement in most places. The biggest

change is in the creek bottoms and utilization in the associated areas."

Fritz Prellwitz, a wildlife biologist in Malta, began working for BLM in the area more than 25 years ago. He left to work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service for 15 years, and then came back to BLM. He's among those who have seen the changes.

"In most ways, habitat here is as good, or better, than the old days," he said.

Residual grass cover is much improved in places, improving nesting conditions for grassland songbirds. Some species, including swift fox, colonial water birds, and waterfowl are also doing well. Greater sage-grouse have "good numbers here, but are hurting elsewhere," he says. The main negative trend is that shrubs in some upland drainages and near some reservoirs aren't faring well, mostly due to drought conditions, Prellwitz says.

One problem encountered in the earlier years was a lack of basic information about the rangeland condition. "We had identified the need to do something, but didn't have a method to measure," Fahlgren says. "And it can be totally overwhelming to look at the number of acres and trend plots you need to do."

That problem was addressed by allowing the permittees to conduct monitoring. It's an idea that has worked well.

"It's been a helpful thing. When they go out to the sites themselves, they really begin to understand the standards and classes," Fahlgren says.

Twenty to thirty permittees have helped with monitoring projects, providing valuable information about rangeland conditions. "If they want help, we'll go out with them, but most of them just go out and get it done," Fahlgren says. "They keep turning in their photos."

Many people and organizations have helped with the overall rangeland improvement, according to Adams. "It would be wrong for BLM to take all the credit," he says. "Many people had a hand in it – not just the range conservationists, but hydrologists, biologists, ranchers, extension agents and others."

Adams and Fahlgren know the work isn't over. "You can't say that it's easy, that here's the one silver bullet to fix it," Adams says. "Fine tuning is what we're doing now."

Adds Fahlgren, "It's been fun to be part of the evolution."



ABOVE: Larb Creek was functioning-at-risk in 1996 when the initial riparian survey was done. BLM photos

BELOW: The same spot in 2002, in Properly Functioning Condition. BLM photos



Energy Act Lands in Miles City

Greg Albright, Montana State Office

Even though you won't find any Charles Lindberg or Chuck Yeager wannabe's there, BLM's office in Miles City is an official Pilot Office.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 created pilot offices in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Miles City, Montana, to demonstrate how the oil and gas permitting process can be expedited while maintaining environmental safeguards.

Anyone who's been around the executive branch of the federal government for any appreciable time knows that initiatives or pilot projects often fade quicker than a new pair of blue jeans in the hot wash cycle. And more often than not, it's because they come to the field with nothing except high expectations and well-meaning descriptive prose.

The pilot office portion of

the 2005 Energy Act is different, however. New fiscal capabilities were included in the package. For Miles City that means 11 new positions and the funding to pay for them. Miles City will see a budget increase for up to 15 years (about \$1.25 million this year). And it's new money, not funding taken from some other program.

Of the 11 new positions authorized, seven have already been hired. These include two new petroleum engineering technicians, two natural resource specialists, two archeologists and a receptionist. The field office is looking at how it needs to round out its skills mix before filling the last four slots, but it is interesting to note that of the first seven slots filled, only two are purely "minerals" positions. The additional staff should be able to handle the

additional workload that is anticipated as coal bed natural gas development expands in the Powder River Basin.

One interesting aspect of the pilot involves positions at partner agencies. Many times we need input from another state or federal agency before we can complete the environmental review of an oil or gas proposal. But if that agency is short on staff, a bottleneck can result. Under the Energy Act pilot, we have the capability to fund positions in other agencies. In the Miles City pilot, we have already provided funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to hire a biologist. Agreements are also in the works for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to hire an additional biologist and for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality



The original Miles City building (left) will be remodeled to match the new addition (right) as closely as possible.

to hire three new people to work on air and water quality issues.

So where will we put these new staff additions? Timing could not have been better. The Miles City Field Office was already in a building/remodeling mode when the Energy Act was passed. New space was being added to accommodate the minerals staff that is currently located in separately leased space about a half mile from the Field Office Building and the operations staff that is now housed in the old fire

building across the back parking lot. It was fairly easy to simply add to the planned expansion to accommodate the additional pilot project staff.

The new expansion was ready for occupancy during the first full week of March. Staff from the existing building moved into the new space leaving the old space vacant. Now the old space is being renovated to bring it up to current code and to meet our current requirements. This includes things like new insula-

tion, more efficient windows and wiring modernization. When the renovation is complete late next year, the minerals staff will vacate their cross-town space and move into the field office building.

Having an expanded staff to deal with emerging issues and having a facility that puts the entire Miles City family under one roof are giant steps for the field office as it tackles the tasks at hand.

Choice Wildlife Habitat Now in Public Ownership

Marilyn Krause, Western Zone

Approximately 2,000 acres of the Iron Mask ranch on the east slopes of the Elkhorn Mountains recently became part of the Butte Field Office thanks to The Conservation Fund, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Senator Conrad Burns. The remaining 3,500 acres will be transferred to public ownership in phases.

"With millions of acres of rangeland across the West at risk, it is critical that we work to protect our most significant landscapes," said The Conservation Fund's Montana state director, Gates Watson. "The Elkhorn Range contains some of the most important and vulnerable wildlife habitat in Montana. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Burns and the support of the Elk Foundation and the local community, we are conserving the state's significant natural resources and enhancing public recreation opportunities for future generations."

Phase one was completed in December using \$1 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. An estimated additional \$1.75 million is needed to complete the transaction.

Named after a defunct mine, the Iron Mask property provides outstanding elk winter range and year-round habitat for bighorn sheep and antelope. The property abuts the Forest Service on the west, BLM land on the south and private

land covered by a conservation agreement on the north. Located just south of Helena in one of the fastest growing regions of Montana, the property was slated for sale and threatened with development.

RMEF worked closely with The Conservation Fund to ensure the Iron Mask property remained intact for wildlife. Through the fundraising efforts of its members and volunteers, the RMEF absorbed the carrying costs since the land was purchased last summer.

"The Iron Mask property is a key component of outstanding wildlife habitat in the Elkhorns," stated Rick Hotaling, Butte Field Manager. "BLM is pleased to be a partner in this acquisition."



The Iron Mask ranch is a mix of native grasses, sagebrush and timber, providing prime habitat for a number of wildlife species, and ideal winter range for elk. Photos courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



They proceeded on . . .



Spring 1806

March 7

Having previously run out of whiskey, the expedition now runs out of tobacco. Patrick Gass reports that the men use crab tree bark as a substitute.

March 23

Fort Clatsop is presented to the Clatsops, and the expedition sets off for home.

May-late June

The expedition arrives back with the Nez Perce but have to wait for the snows to melt on the Bitterroots before trying to cross them. They play a game of "base" with the Indians, who once again provide the explorers with food. Lewis calls them "the most hospitable, honest and sincere people that we have met with in our voyage."

(source: www.PBS.org)

Attention BLM Retirees

The BLM Retirees Association meets at 11:30 a.m. on the first Tuesday of even-numbered months. The location has changed to Guadalajaras in the Riverboat Casino (444 S. 24th St. West) in Billings.

If you would like to receive email or postcard notifications of these meetings, please call Shirley Heffner at 259-1202, Cynthia Embretson at 252-1367, or send your address to Cynthia at ceatsage@wtp.net.

The Public Lands Foundation offers new retirees a free one-year membership. Please contact Bill Noble, PLF Montana Representative, at 406-656-0267 to join.

Please also help us keep our *Quarterly Steward* mailing list current by contacting Ann Boucher of the External Affairs staff at 406-896-5011 or aboucher@mt.blm.gov with address changes.

Retired from Montana/Dakotas BLM since November 31, 2005:

Bonnie Anton – 30 years
Legal Instruments Examiner, Montana State Office

Douglas Norwood – 30 years
Contact Representative, Montana State Office

David Barney – 37 years
Realty Specialist, Butte Field Office

Peter Olson – 31 years
Land Surveyor, Montana State Office

Gary Beals – 33 years
Realty Specialist, Butte Field Office

Donald Ruffedt – 34 years
Natural Resource Spec., North Dakota Field Office

Dan Boechler – 24 years
Forestry Technician, Billings Field Office

Bruce Thoricht – 32 years
Meteorologist, Montana State Office

Patricia Eggart – 28 years
Physical Science Technician, Great Falls Field Station

Henry Ulrich – 41 years
Civil Engineering Technician, Malta Field Office

Patrick Mullaney – 31 years
Fire Management Specialist, Montana State Office

Teresita Vaughn – 30 years
Land Law Examiner, Montana State Office

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